

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Senate Bill 209: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF PROBATE COURT SYSTEM

EMPLOYEES - Support

**House Bill 5251: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR DISPATCHERS -
Support**

**House Bill 5246: AN ACT EXTENDING RECALL RIGHTS OF CERTAIN LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES -
Support**

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Travis Woodward, I am a resident of Hamden, and an engineer in the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I am also the president of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union representing over 23,000 state, municipal, board of education, active and retired, public and private sector workers. I offer the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 209, House Bill 5251, and House Bill 5246:

Senate Bill 209: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF PROBATE COURT SYSTEM

EMPLOYEES - Support. It is remarkable that there are workers in Connecticut who do not have the right to form a union and exercise their collective bargaining rights. Unfortunately, that is the case for the people who work in Connecticut's probate courts. This bill simply gives probate court workers the right to form a union, if they so choose. Denying working people their fundamental rights is shameful and, as a state, we should take a needed step forward and give collective bargaining rights to these workers. We urge you to support Senate Bill 209.

House Bill 5251: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR DISPATCHERS -

Support. On behalf of the dispatchers represented by CSEA, I ask you to support House Bill 5251. Dispatchers have demanding and critical jobs that require patience and skill. All dispatchers, or "Telecommunicators", as defined under section 28-30 of the General Statutes, should be treated fairly and equally under our workers' compensation statutes. This bill ensures that will happen and shows proper respect for the work done by dispatchers and the service they provide for the public and for Connecticut's public safety agencies.

House Bill 5246: AN ACT EXTENDING RECALL RIGHTS OF CERTAIN LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES -

Support. The past two years have been unlike any other we have faced.

And, for working people, whether or not they are a member of a labor union, these past few years have wreaked havoc on the lives of those who work for a living. As COVID infection rates continue to decline, we hope that finally we can start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. HB 5246 builds on previous legislation to provide structure and guidance to employers while providing relief and hope to workers. Getting any laid-off workers back on the job as quickly and in as fair a manner as possible is the best thing for workers and the best thing for Connecticut's economy.

I would like to thank you for hearing my testimony.

Travis Woodward
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

